

**Assembly Joint Resolution**

**No. 46**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Frazier**

May 1, 2014

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Assembly Joint Resolution No. 46—Relative to veterans.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

AJR 46, as introduced, Frazier. Birth anomalies: children of veterans.

This measure would urge the United States Congress to pass, and the United States President to sign into law, Senate Bill 1602, and the House of Representatives to write and pass a companion bill, and encourage the members of the California Congressional Delegation to join as coauthors on the bill.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Over the years millions have served our great  
2 nation in the Armed Forces of the United States. During their  
3 service many have been exposed to toxins with unknown  
4 consequences. Most of these veterans did not know they were  
5 exposed to harmful materials, with many of these veterans suffering  
6 from the harmful effects of these toxins; and  
7 WHEREAS, Many children and grandchildren of these veterans  
8 were born with both structural and nonstructural defects. Some  
9 have been accepted by the United States Department of Veterans  
10 Affairs as a result of the exposures from their parent’s service; and  
11 WHEREAS, Birth anomalies in the children of veterans are not  
12 tracked as normal birth defects, so most go unreported,  
13 unexplained, and not researched. These anomalies have some

1 similarities but follow mostly unreported and under researched  
2 paths; and

3 WHEREAS, Most states that have birth defect registries do not  
4 report to a national registry. Miscarriages and still births are seldom  
5 researched for cause, these are not tracked on a national registry.  
6 Even death and defects at military hospitals relating to the children  
7 of dependants are not tracked or not put into a federal registry; and

8 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Veterans Affairs  
9 and the Department of Defense have been tracking toxic exposures  
10 and possible exposures without followup research on the veterans  
11 and their offspring; and

12 WHEREAS, Parents of children with birth defects carry a heavy  
13 emotional and financial burden. Veterans that have been exposed  
14 to toxins normally have a shorter lifespan than others of their  
15 generation. Someone will need to cover costs and care for the  
16 children left behind; and

17 WHEREAS, Senate Bill 1602 would create a center of  
18 excellence to test, study, and find solutions to the illnesses and  
19 anomalies affecting the children of veterans from all era's and duty  
20 stations. This center would be created within the United States  
21 Department of Veteran Affairs and monitored by committees to  
22 ensure transparency. Senate Bill 1602 would also create a database  
23 of birth defects and anomalies both structural and nonstructural;  
24 now, therefore, be it

25 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*  
26 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature respectfully urges the  
27 United States Congress to pass, and the United States President to  
28 sign into law, Senate Bill 1602, and the House of Representatives  
29 to write and pass a companion bill, and encourages the members  
30 of the California Congressional Delegation to join as coauthors  
31 on the bill; and be it further

32 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
33 of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United  
34 States and to the members of the United States Congress.